

pigmentary base may be dried. *See e.g.*, page 9, lines 22 – 23. This drying step removes water, thereby separating the pigmentary base from the solvent prior to the addition of the organo-acid phosphate treatment or the combination of the treated pigment with the polymer. After the treated pigment is formed, it may be combined with the polymer to form solid compositions such as, for example, a masterbatch composition or a film. *See e.g.*, page 8, lines 19 – 21, page 10, lines 4-5; 21 – 22.

The art that the Examiner cited against the previously pending claims was cited for disclosing certain limitations in the context of coatings applications. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reason that the compositions as currently claimed consist essentially of the itemized component and are not suspended in a solvent. Accordingly, the invention as embodied in the new claims above is neither anticipated by nor obvious in light of the cited references.

For example, the Examiner cites: DE 1234234 for its disclosure of an organo-acid phosphate treated pigment in a paint composition; McClain for teaching the use of polyethylene in a coatings composition; Menovick for teaching the use of polymeric resins for coatings compositions; and Stramel for teaching the use of certain polymers in a coatings application. However, none of these references are cited for the proposition that they disclose the use of the presently claimed treated pigment in a plastics application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over these references.

Support for the new claims may be found throughout the originally filed claims and the specification. Specific references to page and line numbers for support for the pending claims are provided below.

New claim 68 is directed to polymer matrices for plastics applications that consist essentially of the treated-pigment of the present invention and a polymer. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 3; page 8, line 19 - 21.

New claim 69 is directed to polymer matrices in which the polymer is selected from a group of specific polymers. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 22 - 30.

New claim 70 specifies that the polymer is polyethylene. Support for this claim may, for example be found on page 7, line 24.

New claim 71 specifies the amount of pigment relative to the polymer matrix. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 8, lines 3 - 5.

New claim 72 specifies that R is an organic compound with six carbon atoms. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, line 5.

New claim 73 specifies that R is an organic compound with eight carbon atoms. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 8, line 5.

New claim 74 specifies that R is 2-ethylhexyl. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 18.

New claim 75 specifies that the pigmentary base is selected from a group of specific pigmentary bases. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, lines 7 - 8.

New claim 76 specifies that the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 7.

New claim 77 specifies the amount of treatment relative to the amount of pigment. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, lines 17 - 20.

New claim 78 is directed to polymer matrices for plastics applications that consist essentially of the treated pigment of the present invention, a polymer, and an additional compound. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 3; page 7, lines 10 - 17; and page 8, line 19 - 21.

New claim 79 is directed to polymer matrices in which the polymer is selected from a group of specific polymers. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 22 - 30.

New claim 80 is directed to polymer matrices in which the polymer is polyethylene. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 7, line 24.

New claim 81 specifies the amount of pigment relative to the polymer matrix. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 8, lines 3 - 5.

New claim 82 specifies that R is an organic compound with six carbon atoms. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, line 5.

New claim 83 specifies that R is an organic compound with eight carbon atoms. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, line 5.

New claim 84 specifies that R is 2-ethylhexyl. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 18.

New claim 85 specifies that the pigmentary base is selected from a group of specific pigmentary bases. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, lines 7 - 8.

New claim 86 specifies that the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 7.

New claim 87 specifies the amount of treatment relative to the amount of pigment. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 5, lines 19 - 20.

New claim 88 specifies that the additional compound is a metal oxide and is selected from a specified group. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 12 - 15.

New claim 89 specifies that the additional compound is a polyalcohol selected from the group consisting of trimethylolethane and trimethylolpropane. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 7, lines 16 - 17.

New claim 90 specifies that the additional compound is an alkanolamine. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 8, line 17.

New claim 91 specifies that the additional compound is triethanolamine. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 8, line 17.

New claim 92 is directed to a polymer matrix that consists essentially of a titanium dioxide pigmentary base treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound and polyethylene. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 24 - page 5 line 3; page 8, line 19 - 21.

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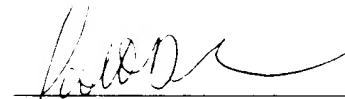
New claim 93 is directed to a polymer matrix that consists essentially of a titanium dioxide pigmentary base treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound, polyethylene and an additional compound. Support for this claim may, for example, be found on page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 3; page 7, lines 10 - 17; page 8, line 19 - 21.

New claims 94 and 95 are directed to compositions that are structured as plastic films. Support for these claims may, for example, be found on page 8, lines 18 - 21.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record if he can be of assistance in furthering prosecution.

Because this response is timely, Applicants submit that no fee is due. If any fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account Number 11-071 for such sum.

Respectfully submitted,



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